

We hold meetings, and raise money, and send missionaries to convert the Turks from their false religions and their barbarous institutions, and even the *Express* does not protest. If, then, there are any whose consciences prompt them to write and speak against false doctrines and barbarous institutions in South Carolina, why should they not be allowed to do so?

It is stated that the Secretary of the Treasury hesitates to invest Government funds in the doubtful Dutch Church Post-Office. We think that if he will carefully examine the title of this property, he will find that it is even worse than doubtful. The truth is, the property does not belong to the Trustees, but to the vault owners, who through their ancestors paid for it much more than its value. In order to bring it into the market, the Trustees caused the remains of the dead to be removed under cover of the night, against the wishes of the vault owners, and without their knowledge or consent. The titles of these vault owners have not been extinguished, and many of them cannot be, for the proprietors utterly refuse to sell, being unwilling in any degree to countenance the high-handed measures adopted by the Trustees. Considering that the Government has a four years' lease of the premises, as well as how extremely unsuited the place is for a permanent Post-Office, we do not think that the interests of the people will suffer, should the matter be deferred for further consideration. Such a decision might suit the speculators who raised \$100,000 to foist this property upon the Government; it is true, but with every one else it would be an eminently popular proceeding.

"Thus apparently," says the Washington correspondent of *The Journal of Commerce*, "we are on the verge of an open war, which has long lurked under the guise of peace. It is a war of sections, interests, prejudices, opinions, fanaticism; a war, in fine, between two different systems of civilization."

Does anybody remember with what bitterness Mr. Seward and the Republican party were assailed throughout the whole of last year, on account of his declaration that, in the essence of things, there is an irrepressible conflict between Freedom and Slavery?

Virginia Convention.
Richmond, Friday, April 12, 1861.
The fourteenth resolution was adopted with Mr. Scott's amendment.
This being the last resolution the Committee took up the proposed amendments to the Constitution.
The Vice President was re-elected. Adjourned.
The Hon. John Tyler received this afternoon from Montgomery copies of official dispatches between Gen. Beauregard, Major Anderson, and Secretary of War Walker. These were printed and circulated in the Convention. Considerable sensation was caused, but there was no indication that the Union men will consent to secede without the cooperation of the Border States. The public mind is greatly excited.

RECRUITING IN THIS CITY FOR THE NAVY AND ARMY.

From *The Boston Herald*, April 12.
On Monday an office for the shipping of seamen for the Navy was opened on Hanover street by Mr. Moses Ingalls, a well-known shipping agent, who is acting under the directions of Capt. Robert Handy of the Navy. Notice having been pretty extensively given, some hundreds of persons appeared on that day for the purpose of enlisting, and up to this time the work of enlisting is going on as rapidly as possible.

When the office closed yesterday, 131 men had been enlisted, most of whom were first-class seamen, and by to-morrow night the number will be 150 or 160. The applicants are of various ages, but a very large number of young men from the country, who have seen out of work and are willing to take up with anything that offers.

From the crowds around the doors, those within the office from time to time let in the loudest looking men, who are one by one sent to the room of Com. Handy, and examined by him. If found suitable they are at once enlisted, furnished with clothing, and sent to Charleston.

Every time a door opens, dozens beg to be let in, and as great a throng of men as policemen are employed to keep them back. Large numbers of those from the country are entirely destitute of money, and some have already returned home, having no means to pay for board, without having been able to get inside the office.

The enlistment will probably continue several weeks, as it is understood that 2,000 men, in all, are wanted immediately for the Navy, and it will take that number to get the required number, although officers are also open in other cities. So particular are the recruiting officers that a man who has served in the British Navy on a cable ship, was rejected because he had not a finger on the left hand.

The recruiting office for the army in Portland street, is doing about the usual amount of business. The enlistments since July last have averaged about seventy per month, and thus far this month the proportion shows about the same, although the recruiting officers have been somewhat larger, so many who have been rejected at the naval shipping-office, afterwards apply here.

Only a small proportion of the applicants are found suitable. This winter, in consequence of the scarcity of work, an unusually large proportion of Americans have been enlisted—many of them foreigners—and they have previously been in excellent cases of men. While in New-York there are many German applicants, and few Irish, the reverse is the case here, but none of that nation are rejected because they do not come up to the required standard—five feet four and a half inches.

Were the Government to reduce the standard two inches, the number of enlistments could be doubled; and the fact that this is not done indicates that there is no desire to greatly increase the army.

Yesterday, recruits have been allowed to enter such arm of the service as they chose, but two days ago a circular was received requiring that enlistments must be unconditional. The men who are enlisted are kept in the office till a squad of 10 or 12 is made up, when they are sent to Governor's Island, New-York, and from there to the several regiments.

DISCOVERY OF THE BODY OF J. D. AUSTIN—AFFECTING INCIDENT.—It will be remembered that about six weeks or more ago Mr. J. D. Austin, a well-known lawyer of Boston, Mass., suddenly disappeared from home, and no information as to his whereabouts could be obtained by his relatives or friends. The matter was finally reported by Police Headquarters in this city, and several detectives were detailed to search for the missing man. In a few days after the disappearance of Mr. A., his body was found on the line of the Harlem Railroad. On Thursday afternoon the mystery was cleared up, the body of Mr. Austin being found at the bottom of a pond in White Plains.

It appears that a man was fishing in the pond from a boat, when he observed a strange object at the bottom. After some delay assistance was procured and the object, which proved to be the body of Mr. Austin, was fished up. Sergeant Dickson yesterday reported to White Plains and identified the body, and made preparations to send it to Boston.

A very affecting incident connected with the matter was the sudden death of Mr. Austin's mother last week at a village in New-Jersey.

The brother was plunged in deep grief at the disappearance of John, and joined in the search for the missing man. Last week, he repaired to New-Jersey to view the body of a man who had been found there. He had been called to breakfast, and replied that he would be down soon, but not appearing, a servant went to his room again, and found him lying dead upon the bed, his eyes suffused with tears.

WAR BEGUN!

FIRE OPENED ON FORT SUMTER.

ANDERSON RETURNING THE FIRE.

Reported Breaches in the Fort.

ALLEGED SUCCESS OF THE REBELS.

THREE WAR VESSELS OUTSIDE THE BAR.

FIRING CEASED FOR THE NIGHT.

Hostilities to be Renewed at Daylight.

THE ARRANGEMENTS TO REPEL WAR VESSELS.

SEVERAL REBELS WOUNDED.

Major Anderson Stronger than Supposed.

HIS FIRE VERY EFFECTIVE.

GEN. BEAUREGARD'S INSTRUCTIONS.

Army and Navy Movements.

MORE STEAMERS CHARTERED.

Extensive Preparations at Navy-Yards.

CHARLESTON, Thursday, April 11, 1861.

Intercepted dispatches disclose the fact that Mr. Fox, who had been allowed to visit Maj. Anderson, on the pledge that his purpose was pacific, employed his opportunity to devise a plan for supplying the fort by force, and that this plan had been adopted by the Washington Government, and was in progress of execution.

SECOND DISPATCH.
CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12, 1861.
The ball has opened. War is inaugurated. The batteries of Sullivan's Island, Morris Island, and other points were opened on Fort Sumter at 4 o'clock this morning. Fort Sumter has returned the fire, and a brisk cannonading has been kept up. No information has been received from the seaboard yet.

The military are under arms, and the whole of our population are on the streets. Every available space facing the harbor is filled with anxious spectators.

THIRD DISPATCH.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12, 1861.

The firing has continued all day without intermission.

Two of Fort Sumter's guns have been silenced, and it is reported that a breach has been made in the south-east wall.

The answer to Gen. Beauregard's demand by Maj. Anderson was that he should surrender when his supplies were exhausted—that is, if he was not reinforced.

Not a casualty has yet happened to any of the forces.

Of the 19 batteries in position, only seven have opened fire on Fort Sumter, the remainder are held in reserve for the expected fleet.

Two thousand men reached this city this morning, and embarked for Morris Island and the neighborhood.

FOURTH DISPATCH.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12, 1861.

The bombardment of Fort Sumter continues. The Floating Battery and Stephens's Battery are speaking freely, and Fort Sumter is returning the fire.

It is reported that three war vessels are outside the bar.

FIFTH DISPATCH.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12, 1861.

The firing has ceased for the night, but will be renewed at daylight. If an attempt is made to reinforce, ample arrangements have been made to repel it.

The Pawnee, Harriet Lane, and a third steamer are reported off the bar.

Troops are arriving by every train.

SIXTH DISPATCH.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12, 1861.

The bombardment is still going on, firing every twenty minutes from mortars. It is supposed that Major Anderson is resting his men for the night.

Three vessels are reported outside. They cannot get in. The sea is rough.

Nobody is hurt. The floating battery works well. Troops arrive hourly. Every inlet is guarded. There are lively times here.

SEVENTH DISPATCH.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12, 1861.

The firing on Fort Sumter continues. There are reviving times on the "Palmetto Coast."

EIGHTH DISPATCH.

CHARLESTON, April 12—12:30 a.m.

It is utterly impossible to reinforce Fort Sumter to-night, as a storm is now raging.

The mortar batteries will be playing on Fort Sumter all night.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12, 1861.
Civil war has at last begun. A terrible fight is at this moment going on between Fort Sumter and the fortifications by which it is surrounded.

The issue was submitted to Major Anderson of surrendering, or of having a fire opened on him within a certain time.

This he refused to do, and, accordingly, at 27 minutes past 4 o'clock this morning Fort Moultrie began the bombardment by firing two guns. To these Major Anderson replied with three of his barbettes guns, after which the bat-

tery on Mount Pleasant, Cummings's Point, and the Floating Battery, opened a brisk fire of shot and shell.

Major Anderson did not reply, except at long intervals, until between 7 and 8 o'clock, when he brought into action the two tier of guns looking toward Fort Moultrie and Stevens's Iron Battery.

Up to this hour—3 o'clock—they have failed to produce any serious effect.

Dispatches received at headquarters from the various forts report that all is going on admirably, and no men hurt.

Major Anderson has the greater part of the day been directing his fire principally against Fort Moultrie, the Stevens and Floating Battery, these and Fort Johnson being the only five operating against him. The remainder of the batteries are held in reserve.

Some fifteen or eighteen shells have struck the floating battery, but made not the slightest impression upon their iron-cased sides. The Stevens's battery is also eminently successful, and does terrible execution on Fort Sumter.

Breaches, to all appearance, are being made in the several sides exposed to fire. Portions of the parapet have been destroyed, and several of the guns there mounted have been shot away.

Maj. Anderson is at present using his lower tier of casemate ordnance.

The fight is going on with intense earnestness, and will continue all night.

It is not improbable that the fort will be carried by storm.

The soldiers are perfectly reckless of their lives, and at every shot jump upon the ramparts, and then jump down cheering.

A party on the Stevens battery are said to have played a game of the hottest fire.

The excitement in the community is indescribable. With the very first boom of the gun thousands rushed from their beds to the harbor front, and all day every available place has been thronged by ladies and gentlemen, viewing the solemn spectacle through their glasses. Most of these have relatives in the several fortifications, and many a tearful eye attested the anxious affection of the mother, wife, and sister, but not a murmur came from a single individual.

Five thousand ladies stand ready to-day to respond to any sacrifice that may be required of them.

The brilliant and patriotic conduct of Major Anderson speaks for itself, and silences the attacks lately made at the North upon his character and patriotism.

Business is entirely suspended. Only those stores open necessary to supply articles required by the army.

Governor Pickens has all day been in the residence of a gentleman who commands a view of the whole scene—a most interested observer. Gen. Beauregard commands in person the entire operations, and thus far they have moved with the utmost system and success.

It is reported that the Harriet Lane has received a shot through her wheelhouse. She is in the offing. No other government ships in sight up to the present moment, but should they appear the entire range of batteries will open upon them.

Troops are pouring into the town by hundreds, but are held in reserve for the present, the forces already on the island being ample. People are also arriving every moment on horseback and by every other conveyance. Within an area of fifty miles, where the thunder of the artillery can be heard, the scene is magnificently terrible.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12—6 p.m.
Capt. R. S. Parker brings dispatches from the Floating Battery, stating that, up to this time, only two have been wounded on Sullivan's Island. He had to row through Major Anderson's warmest fire in a small boat.

Senator Wigfall in same manner bore dispatches to Morris Island, through the fire from Fort Sumter.

Senator Chesnut, another member of the staff of Gen. Beauregard, fired a gun, by way of amusement, from Mount Pleasant, which made a large hole in the parapet.

Quite a number have been struck by spent pieces of shell and knocked down, but none hurt seriously. Many fragments of these missiles are already circulating in the city.

The range is more perfect than in the morning, and every shot from the land tells.

Three ships are visible in the offing, and it is believed an attempt will be made to-night to throw reinforcements into Fort Sumter in small boats.

It is also thought, from the regular and frequent firing of Major Anderson, that he has a much larger force of men than was supposed. At any rate, he is fighting bravely.

There have been two rain storms during the day, but without effect upon the battle.

Everybody is in a ferment. Some of those fighting are stripped to the waist.

FROM MONTGOMERY.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

MONTGOMERY, Friday, April 12, 1861.

Dispatches from Charleston, dated 6 o'clock this evening, state that the bombardment of Fort Sumter continued actively. The Confederate States' batteries, including the floating battery, performed admirably. The opinion was that Fort Sumter will succumb to-morrow. The relief fleet was signalled outside.

G. S. S.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE.

CHARLESTON, Friday, April 12, 1861.

The following is the telegraphic correspondence between the War Department at Montgomery and Gen. Beauregard, immediately preceding the hostilities. The correspondence grew out of the formal notification by the Washington Government, which is disclosed in Gen. Beauregard's first dispatches:

No. 1.] CHARLESTON, April 8, 1861.
L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.
An authorized messenger from President Lincoln just informed Gen. Pickens and myself that provisions will be sent to Fort Sumter presently, or otherwise by force. (Signed.) G. F. BEAUREGARD.

No. 2.] MONTGOMERY, April 10, 1861.
Gen. G. F. BEAUREGARD, Charleston.
If you have no doubt of the authorized character of the agent who conveys to you the intention of the Washington Government to supply Fort Sumter by force, you will at once demand its evacuation, and if this is refused, proceed by such means as you may deem to reduce it. Answer.

No. 3.] CHARLESTON, April 10, 1861.
L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.
The demand will be made to-morrow at 12 o'clock. (Signed.) G. F. BEAUREGARD.

No. 4.] MONTGOMERY, April 10, 1861.
Gen. BEAUREGARD, Charleston.
Unless there are special reasons connected with your own condition it is considered proper that you should make the demand at an early hour.

(Signed.) L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.

No. 5.] CHARLESTON, April 10, 1861.
L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.
The reasons are special for 12 o'clock. (Signed.) G. F. BEAUREGARD.

No. 6.] CHARLESTON, April 11, 1861.
L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.
Demand sent at 12 o'clock. Allowed till 6 o'clock to answer. (Signed.) G. F. BEAUREGARD.

No. 7.] MONTGOMERY, April 11, 1861.
Gen. BEAUREGARD, Charleston.
Telegraph the reply of Major Anderson.

No. 8.] CHARLESTON, April 11, 1861.
L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.
Major Anderson replies:

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, demanding the evacuation of this Fort, and to say in reply thereto that it is a demand with which I regret that my sense of honor and my obligations to my Government prevent my compliance."

He adds: "I will await the first shot, and if you do not batter us to pieces, we will be started out in a few days." Answer. (Signed.) G. F. BEAUREGARD.

No. 9.] MONTGOMERY, April 11, 1861.
Gen. BEAUREGARD, Charleston.
We do not desire needlessly to bombard Fort Sumter, if Major Anderson will state the time at which, as indicated by him, he will evacuate, and agree that, in the meantime, he will not use his guns against us, unless ours should be employed against Fort Sumter. You are thus to avoid the effusion of blood. If this or its equivalent be refused, reduce the Fort, as your judgment decides to be the most practicable.

(Signed.) L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.
No. 10.] CHARLESTON, April 12, 1861.
L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.
He would not comply. I write to-day. (Signed.) G. F. BEAUREGARD.

THE CONFEDERATE STATES CONGRESS.

MONTGOMERY, Friday, April 12, 1861.

An extra session of the Confederate States Congress has been called for April 29.

EXCITEMENT IN MOBILE.

MOBILE, Friday, April 12, 1861.

There is intense excitement and rejoicing here. Fifteen guns have been fired in honor of the attack on Fort Sumter.

THE KENTUCKY VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.
LOUISVILLE, Friday, April 12, 1861.

Dispatches have come here to hold the Kentucky volunteer regiment in readiness to move at a moment's notice from the War Department at Montgomery.

PENNSYLVANIA ARMING.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Friday, April 12, 1861.

A bill has been reported in the House appropriating half a million dollars for arming and equipping the militia of the State. It provides for the appointment of Adjutant, Commissary, and Quartermaster-Generals by the Governor.

The War bill passed both Houses to-night without amendment. Gov. Curtin waited at the Executive office to sign it. It is signed.

The Charleston dispatches about hostilities were announced in both Houses, and produced a profound sensation.

Mr. Smith, a Democratic member of the House, after the Charleston dispatches were received, changed his vote to Yes on the War bill. All the Democrats of both Houses voted against it. The bill appropriates \$400,000 for the purpose of arming and equipping the militia; authorizes a temporary loan; provides for the appointment of an Adjutant-General, Commissary-General, and Quartermaster-General, who, with the Governor, are to have power to carry the act into effect.

EFFECTS OF THE WAR IN BALTIMORE.

BALTIMORE, Friday, April 12, 1861.

The Charleston news was not generally promulgated here until after night. It produced a profound sensation and general expressions of regret at the prospect of bloodshed. There is a great diversity of views, but the general expressions are on the side of the Government.

ARMY AND NAVY INTELLIGENCE.

THE CONFEDERATE STATES TOOLS.

At 6 o'clock yesterday morning, the steamer *Watson* came alongside the wharf at the foot of Warren street, and the troops on board commenced to disembark. The baggage was first removed, and put on board the tow-boats R. L. Mabley and Pope Catlin. By noon, all the men had left the *Watson*, the Washington detachments being the last to leave.

We gave the destination yesterday, of the several companies.

The arrival of the infantry at Fort Hamilton was the signal for a repetition of the battle and excitement occasioned by the parading of that fortress some time since. The rooms occupied by the Artillery Companies from Texas were prepared by the Sergeant in charge for these new residents, who are now comfortably located in them. A guard was mounted in the afternoon, and sentinels told off for their duty, as though the poor fellows had just returned from foreign, instead of harnessing service. The \$50,000 appropriated by the Government for the extension of the Fort Hamilton batteries, is being expended.

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND.

The increasing preparations which have been making on the Island for some days to receive troops, were not made for nothing, as we anticipated. No sooner had the arrival of the *Confederate* been announced on Thursday than Fort Columbus was in a ferment. Off-duty men rushed to the beach to cheer their returned comrades; police parties threw by their work and followed suit; even the day's guard forgot the dignified disregard of events going on off their post—which sentinels generally observe—and went as far from the guard-room as they dared. The band, having been fired playing "The Girl I Left Behind Me" for departing troops, were glad to have a change of air, and to a less melancholy strain. "So, the Conquering Hero Comes" is the tune usually played on the occasion of reinforcements, but it didn't exactly suit the case. "Paddy Garry" was performed with spirit. The barracks, mess-rooms and baggage-rooms received a hasty brush up, and missing belts-packs and musket-racks were supplied. Yesterday morning the continual arrival and departure of officers and messengers from the city betokened active movements, the nature of which Providence and Gen. Scott only know.

THE NAVY-YARD.

The business at the Navy-Yard continues with unabated vigor. In all the departments bustle and activity are visible. The machine shops have the engines and machinery of the *Wabash* and *Roonoke* in hand. The former is approaching completion rapidly, and will probably be finished on Tuesday; the latter is not being hurried. The Marine Barracks still have about 80 troops, none having been detached for some time. They are drilled every day, sometimes along with the guard of the receiving ship. Instead of one commanding officer, one executive captain and three lieutenants, the commissioned officers of the post consist of Capt. Brevoort and Major Dandridge. Sergeant McDonald has been acting officer of the day in his turn for weeks, but the honor is all trouble and no profit. In the Paymaster's Department, Mr. Holman, the new incumbent, has just "got the hang of things." Mr. Nixon keeping him posted during his long initiation term.

The Life Acting Clerk in the Purser's office, Mr. Murray, who has gone to Mare Island with his father, is replaced by Mr. Belknap's son. The visitors who daily throng the premises, minutely examine all the attractions of the yard, from that "old curiosity shop," the Lyceum, to the magnificent landing ways, which have been built over and completed. The new gun ground, which will be one of the finest "ornamental squares" at the station, when completed, is quite ready for the cannon, but they have not yet been brought down. The skids are all laid.

THE ARMORY.

Tightly bound, and hid from the gaze of outsiders, is the Armory. Since the memorable night on which the capture of the Navy Yard was anticipated, the doors of this building have been shut up, and no one but the

"Keeper of the Key" can tell how the arms look now. The muskets, cutlasses, pistols, boarding pikes, and the rails filled with cartouch boxes, are overhauled by the privileged visitor every morning, and no rusty nipples or rotten scabbards are in the premises. There may probably be 8,000 muskets and other small weapons in the department. One of these fine armories 120 muskets for the *Wabash*, about 80 for the *Savannah*, and some 30 for the *Pennsylvania*, will be taken out.

THE ARMAMENTS OF THE SHIPS ORDERED FOR SEA.

The Ordnance Department, which, like the unapproachable army, is under the control of Capt. Ganey, is finishing up the armaments for the three men-of-war in the stream, preparing for active sea service. An experienced person can form no idea of the weight of metal in these batteries. As they are likely to figure in the home fleet, we append some account of each:

The *Wabash*.—This splendid steam frigate will have on board 24 ten-inch pivot guns, weighing over 10,000 pounds each; 28 nine-inch guns of 9,000 pounds; 14 eight-inch, 13 cwt.; 2 twelve-pound heavy howitzers (for the launch); and 2 twelve-pound light howitzers (for the cutter). This battery will of itself weigh over 300 tons, and will have attached to it little less than 3,800 rounds of shot, shell, &c. It will soon be ready for work. The *Wabash* is to get her masts in to-day or Monday, and will have steam up this afternoon.

The *Savannah*.—The armaments of this *Savannah* recently consisted of a large number of comparatively light guns. It will be changed. The impression seems to be now that she will have 22 nine-inch guns, which will make her battery nearly equal in power, as regards the weight of metal, to the spar-deck of the *Wabash*, excepting pivots. The authorities seem to think, like Napoleon, that Providence and victory are on the side of the big artillery. Hence the *Savannah's* improved armament. She is progressing fast, and will be reported ready about the 10th of May—not before.

The *Perry*.—The *Perry* will have six thirty-two pounders, weighing 57 cwt. each and one light twenty-four pounder, giving a formidable armament for a little frigate. Her short rails, which, perhaps, contain some 2,800 shot, shell, &c. The rigging of this vessel is almost up. She can be ready for sea in a few days.

Commodore Dreese, the Commandant of the Brooklyn Navy-Yard, who has been to Washington on the Armstrong Court-martial, returned to town on Thursday, and assumed command of the Navy-Yard.

The launches which were brought down from the Navy-Yard, to go in the Baltic and Illinois and two third cutters, were yesterday returned, and hauled up on the wharf.

THE RECRUITING OFFICES.

The business at the recruiting offices, since notice on Wednesday, has not materially changed. Cedar and Chatham streets average each about thirty men per week, who are sent over to Fort Columbus, when sworn in